

NNNNYY ZSBAZ3MJCYUH

00 KUCMRR

DE RUSSEL #7218/1 2701235

ZNY CCCCC ZZH ZDS

0 R 271223Z SEP 79

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5928

INFO RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 777

RUSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 9376

RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7486

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1349

RUQMR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 522

11

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 7218

XXDIS

E.O. 12865: DDS 9/27/95 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCZ) CR-M

TAGS: PRPR AF US

SUBJ: CHARGE'S CALL ON PRESIDENT AMIN

REF: A) STATE 258412 (NOTAL), B) STATE 258278 (NOTAL)

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).
2. SUMMARY. I HAD AN AMICABLE, RELAXED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AMIN THIS MORNING. HE WAS ALL CHARM AND FRIENDLINESS AND MADE A PITCH FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. NO REALLY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.
3. THESE LAST FEW DAYS, AMBASSADORS AND GEORGES HAVE BEEN QUINQUING UP TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO PRESIDENT AMIN ON HIS "ELECTION" AS NEW AFGHAN PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PARTY. I WAS THE FIFTH ENVOY TO SEE HIM THIS MORNING. AND I WAS TOLD A SIXTH WOULD BE FOLLOWING ME THIS AFTERNOON.
4. AMIN WAS RELAXED, POISED AND OUTWARDLY FRIENDLY. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF HIS BEING WOUNDED IN THE REPORTED PALACE SHOOTOUT OF SEPT 14. IN OBSERVING THIS GENUINE MAN, IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS HE WHO HAD SURVIVED PLOT AFTER PLOT AND HAD EMERGED ON TOP. AS I LOOKED AT HIM, I COULD NOT HELP BUT RECALL THAT ONLY TWO YEARS AGO, IN 1977, WHEN WE DID ONE OF THOSE REQUIRED PERIODICAL EXERCISES TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL LEADERS, WE DIDN'T INCLUDE AMIN. IT WAS ALSO HARD TO REALIZE IN TALKING WITH THIS FRIENDLY FELLOW THAT IT WAS HE TOO THAT HAD BEEN DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

2. SUMMARY. I HAD AN AMICABLE, RELAXED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AHMID THIS MORNING. HE WAS ALL CHARM AND FRIENDLINESS AND MADE A PITCH FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. NO REALLY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

3. THESE LAST FEW DAYS, AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES HAVE BEEN  
QUESTING UP TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO PRESIDENT AMIN ON HIS  
"ELECTION" AS NEW AFGHAN PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY  
OF THE PARTY. I WAS THE FIFTH ENVOY TO SEE HIM THIS  
MORNING, AND I WAS TOLD A SIXTH WOULD BE FOLLOWING ME  
THIS AFTERNOON.

4. AMIN WAS RELAXED, POISED AND OUTWARDLY FRIENDLY. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF HIS BEING WOUNDED IN THE REPORTED PALACE SHOOTOUT OF SEPT 14. IN OBSERVING THIS GENIAL MAN, IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS HE WHO HAD SURVIVED PLOT AFTER PLOT AND HAD EMERGED ON TOP. AS I LOOKED AT HIM, I COULD NOT HELP BUT RECALL THAT ONLY TWO YEARS AGO, IN 1977, WHEN WE DID ONE OF THOSE REQUIRED PERIODICAL EXERCISES TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL LEADERS, WE DIDN'T INCLUDE AMIN. IT WAS ALSO HARD TO REALIZE IN TALKING WITH THIS FRIENDLY FELLOW THAT IT WAS HE TOO THAT HAD BEEN DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

EXECUTION OF PROBABLY 3,000 POLITICAL OFFENDERS. IN EVERYTHING HE SAID, HE SOUNDED REASONABLE AND PROUD OF THE IMAGE OF A MAN YOU COULD REASON WITH AND REACH UNDERSTANDING.

5. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, I WAS UNDER TWO TIGHT INSTRUCTIONS: ONE TO KEEP THE MEETING SHORT AND THE OTHER TO SAY NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE OTHER THAN TO OBSERVE THE USG DESIRE TO SHAPE AMIN'S OFF-PARTICIPANT RELATIONSHIP FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS. WHEN YOU KNOW THAT THE OBSCURITY TEA-DRINKING DRILL WILL NOT START FOR SOME MINUTES, AND THAT A TOO HASTY RETREAT WILL BE SEEN AS AN APOLOGY, MY STAFF AND I HAD WRAPPED OUR BRAINS BEFORE AND AS TO WHAT SHALL TALK I COULD RESORT TO TO PASS THE TIME. FOR IT ALL TURNED OUT TO BE LESS OF A FROTHY THAN I FEARED. AMIN WAS IN A LOQUACIOUS MOOD, AND I LEFT HIM DO MOST OF THE TALKING. WE HAD ONE PICTURE TAKEN -- IN FACT, THAT TOOK ABOUT FOUR MINUTES -- AND TO MY ASSON- ISMENT THE TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS TOOK MANY PICTURES. SINCE THE DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES HAVE HAD THEIR PICTURES WITH AMIN FEATURED IN THE LOCAL PRESS ALL THIS PAST WEEK, I SUPPOSE MINE WILL SHOW UP THERE IN DUE COURSE.

BT  
#7212

NNNNVV ESA233JCT54  
OO RUHMR  
DE RUSLX #7212/2 2701246  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O R 271223Z SEP 79  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5021  
INFO RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 770  
RUSBGD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 9377  
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7465

RUEHMC/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1959  
RUHMR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 523 ✓  
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 KABUL 7215

EXDIS

6. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PHOTOGRAPHERS LEFT, AMIN SAID THAT HE WANTED IT MADE CLEAR TO WASHINGTON THAT HE DESIRED "BETTER AND FRIENDLIER RELATIONS". THANK GOODNESS, I WAS ABLE TO RESPOND THAT WASHINGTON SHARES A SENTIMENT FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS, TOO. HE THEN LAYS THE PITCH, WHICH HE HAS MADE SO OFTEN TO VISITORS IN THE PAST, THAT THE DRA HARBORS NO ILLWILL TOWARD ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, IN FACT WISHES TO BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH EVERY NATION, AND THAT IT SINCERELY DESIRES PEACE. HE ALSO REPEATED HIS FAMILIAR PREVIOUS LINE THAT AFGHANISTAN IS A BACKWARD COUNTRY WHICH URGENTLY NEEDS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, AND IT CAN ONLY DO SO WITH THE HELP OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THOUGH HE DIDN'T MENTION USAID SPECIFICALLY, IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE CONTEXT OF HIS REMARKS THAT HE HOPED WE COULD SOMEDAY SEE OUR WAY TO SUPPORT THE DRA'S DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS.

7. HE ALSO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT HAVING AN AMBASSADOR IN "MANY COUNTRIES/S (GREAT AMONG THESE THE USA), EXPLAINING THAT THE PARTY WAS DEEPLY SHORT OF QUALIFIED PEOPLE WHO COULD ADEQUATELY REPRESENT THE REGIME. AS A CONSEQUENCE, HE LOOKED TO ME. HE SAID, TO BE THE PRIMARY CONDUIT FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AFGHANISTAN. PURSUING THIS THEME, HE TWICE SAID THAT HIS DOOR WAS ALWAYS OPEN TO RECEIVE ME WHENEVER I WISHED TO CONSULT HIM. GOING BEING MINDFUL OF THE DEMAND OF THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT WE REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE U.S. MISSION, I TRIED TO SAY SOME POSITIVE THINGS TO LEAVE A SALUTARY IMPRESSION. I BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION THAT THE DC-7: FOR ARIANA AFGHAN AIRLINES WAS NOW SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN KABUL ON OCTOBER 7, AND I SAID THAT, "I HOPED NOTHING WOULD DEVELOP TO PREVENT ITS COMING." I THEN POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY REDUCED ITS TARIFF LEVELS ON SEVEN ITEMS WHICH AFGHANISTAN EXPORTED TO THE U.S. (AS A RESULT OF THE TOKYO ROUND), AND THAT THOUGH THIS MEANT A REVENUE LOSS TO OUR TREASURY, I FELT IT WOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT FOR AFGHANISTAN BY INCREASING EXPORTS. FINALLY, I REFERRED TO HIS INTEREST IN SOLAR ENERGY, AND HIS HAVING MET A VISITING AMERICAN EXPERT IN THIS FIELD IN KABUL LAST JULY, AND SAID THAT USICA PLANNED A FULL-SCALE EXHIBIT ON THIS SUBJECT NEXT YEAR. HIS RESPONSE TO THAT WAS ONE OF ENTHUSIASM, AND HE SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION.

8. THAT'S ABOUT ALL. I THINK BY HAVING CALLED ON HIM WAS A WISE MOVE. I THINK HE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND THE DEPT. A MESSAGE THAT HE WANTED BETTER RELATIONS, AND HE STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED ANY CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT. WHEN I NEXT MET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DOST, I PLAN IF NECESSARY TO REFER TO AMIN'S DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS AS AN ARGUMENT FOR THE USA TO EASE UP ON US ON THE MISSION STAFFING ISSUE.

12. BEARING IN MIND THE DEPARTMENT'S STRUCTURE THAT I KEEP THE MEETING SHORT, I LOOKED AT MY WATCH WHEN I LEFT AND, COUNTING T B FOUR MINUTES WHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE THERE, I WAS IN AMIN'S RECEPTION ROOM FOR 19 MINUTES. THE TIMING ALL AROUND WAS, I THOUGHT, JUST ABOUT RIGHT.

AMSTUTZ

BT  
#7218

**EXCISED COPY FOLLOWS**

EXCISE

4212/81 185913 PRINTER 14

EE FLMER E  
9 KABUL 7218

CONFIDENTIAL

EXDIS CR ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

AGE 01 KABUL 07218 01 OF 02 271324Z

CTION SS-25

NFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /026 W

R 271223Z SEP 79

M AMEMBASSY KABUL

TURUHC/SECSTATE W

NFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

MEMBASSY ISLAMAPAD

MEMBASSY NEW DELHI

MEMBASSY MOSCOW

MEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 7218

EXDIS

0.12065: GDS 9/27/85 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) OR-M

AGS: PEPR AF US

SUBL: CHARGE'S CALL ON PRESIDENT AMIN

EF: A) STATE 250412 (NOTAL), B) STATE 250279 (NOTAL)

.. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY. I HAD AN AMICABLE, RELAXED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AMIN THIS MORNING. HE WAS ALL CHARM AND FRIENDLINESS AND MADE A PITCH FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. NO REALLY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

3. THESE LAST FEW DAYS, AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES HAVE BEEN QUEUEING UP TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO PRESIDENT AMIN ON HIS "ELECTION" AS NEW AFGEAN PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PARTY. I WAS THE FIFTH ENVOY TO SEE HIM THIS MORNING, AND I WAS TOLD A SIXTH WOULD BE FOLLOWING ME THIS AFTERNOON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 07218 01 OF 02 271324Z

4. AMIN WAS RELAXED, POISED AND OUTWARDLY FRIENDLY. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF HIS BEING WOUNDED IN THE REPORTED PALACE SHOOTOUT OF SZPT 14. IN OBSERVING THIS GENIAL MAN, IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS HE WHO HAS SURVIVED PLOT AFTER PLOT AND HAS EMERGED ON TOP. AS I LOOKED AT HIM, I COULD NOT HELP BUT RECALL THAT ONLY TWO YEARS AGO, IN 1977, WHEN WE DID ONE OF THOSE REQUIRED PERIODICAL EXERCISES TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL LEADERS, WE DIDN'T INCLUDE AMIN. IT WAS ALSO HARD TO REALIZE IN TALKING WITH THIS FRIENDLY FELLOW THAT IT WAS HE TOO THAT HAS BEEN DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXECUTION OF PROBABLY 5,000 POLITICAL OPPONENTS. IN EVERYTHING HE SAID, HE SOUNDED REASONABLE AND PROJECTED THE IMAGE OF A MAN YOU COULD REASON WITH AND REACH UNDERSTANDINGS.

CONFIDENTIAL

EXDIS CR ONLY

PAGE

1

03115007030

E  
75  
B(1) ED

Col E - ...  
Col G - ...  
E. Kelly  
M. Kelly

8400128

B(1) ED

EE ELMER E  
9 KABUL 7213

02/12/81 185914.. PRINTER: 21  
CONFIDENTIAL.. / EXDIS OR ONLY

[REDACTED]  
WHEN YOU KNOW THAT THE OBLIGATORY  
SEA-DRINKING DRILL WILL NOT START FOR SOME MINUTES,  
AND THAT A TOO HASTY RETREAT WILL BE SEEN AS AN AFFRONT,  
MY STAFF AND I HAD WRACKED OUR BRAINS BEFOREHAND AS TO  
WHAT SMALL TALK I COULD RESORT TO TO PASS THE TIME.  
BUT IT ALL TURNED OUT TO BE LESS OF A PROBLEM THAN I  
FEARED. AMIN WAS IN A LOQUACIOUS MOOD, AND I LET HIM  
DO MOST OF THE TALKING. WE HAD OUR PICTURE TAKEN --  
IN FACT, THAT TOOK ABOUT FOUR MINUTES -- AND TO MY ASTON-  
ISHMENT THE TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS TOOK NINE PICTURES. SINCE MY  
DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES HAVE HAD THEIR PICTURES WITH AMIN  
FEATURED IN THE LOCAL PRESS ALL THIS PAST WEEK, I SUPPOSE MINE WILL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 07213 01 OF 02 271324Z

SHOW UP THERE IN DUE COURSE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

/ EXDIS OR ONLY

PAGE 2

031155071330

EE ELMER E  
9 KABUL 7218

CONFIDENTIAL

EXDIS OR ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 07218 02 OF 02 271331Z

ACTION SS-25

NFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----295192 271334Z /42

O R 271223Z SEP 79

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5821

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 7218

EXDIS

6. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PHOTOGRAPHERS LEFT, AMIN SAID THAT HE WANTED IT MADE CLEAR TO WASHINGTON THAT HE DESIRED "BETTER AND FRIENDLIER RELATIONS". THANK GOODNESS, I WAS ABLE TO RESPOND THAT WASHINGTON SHARED A SENTIMENT FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS, TOO. HE THEN MADE THE PITCH, WHICH HE HAS MADE SO OFTEN TO VISITORS IN THE PAST, THAT THE DRA HARBORS NO ILLWILL TOWARD ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, IN FACT WISHES TO BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH EVERY NATION, AND THAT IT SINCERELY DESIRES PEACE. HE ALSO REPEATED HIS FAMILIAR PREVIOUS LINE THAT AFGHANISTAN IS A BACKWARD COUNTRY WHICH DIPERATELY NEEDS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, AND IT CAN ONLY DO SO WITH THE HELP OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THOUGH HE DIDN'T MENTION USAID SPECIFICALLY, IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE CONTEXT OF HIS REMARKS THAT HE HOPED WE COULD SOMEDAY SEE OUR WAY TO SUPPORT THE DRA'S DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS.

7. HE ALSO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT HAVING AN AMBASSADOR IN "MANY COUNTRIES/S (READ AMONG

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 07218 02 OF 02 271331Z

THESE THE USA), EXPLAINING THAT THE PARTY WAS DESPERATELY SHORT OF QUALIFIED PEOPLE WHO COULD ADEQUATELY REPRESENT THE REGIME. AS A CONSEQUENCE, HE LOOKED TO ME, HE SAID, TO BE THE PRIMARY CONDUIT FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AFGHANISTAN. PURSUING THIS THEME, HE TWICE SAID THAT HIS DOOR WAS ALWAYS OPEN TO RECEIVE ME WHENEVER I WISHED TO CONSULT HIM.

BEING MINDFUL OF THE DEMAND OF THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT WE REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE U.S. MISSION, I TRIED TO SAY SOME POSITIVE THINGS TO LEAVE A SALUTARY IMPRESSION. I BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION THAT THE DC-7: FOR ARIANA AFGHAN AIRLINES WAS NOW SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN KABUL ON OCTOBER 7, AND I SAID THAT, I HOPED NOTHING WOULD DEVELOP TO PREVENT ITS COMING." I THEN

CONFIDENTIAL

/ EXDIS OR ONLY

PAGE

3

03115507030

EE ELMER E  
9 KABUL 7218

02:42:31:185915: PRINTER: 14:00  
CONFIDENTIAL... EXDIS OR ONLY

POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY  
REDUCED ITS TARIFF LEVELS ON SEVEN ITEMS WHICH  
AFGHANISTAN EXPORTED TO THE U.S. (AS A RESULT OF THE  
TOKYO ROUND), AND THAT THOUGH THIS MEANT A REVENUE LOSS  
TO OUR TREASURY, I HOPED IT WOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL  
EFFECT FOR AFGHANISTAN BY INCREASING EXPORTS. FINALLY,

REFERRED TO HIS INTEREST IN SOLAR ENERGY, AND HIS  
HAVING MET A VISITING AMERICAN EXPERT IN THIS FIELD  
IN KABUL LAST JULY, AND SAID THAT USICA PLANNED A FULL-  
SCALE EXHIBIT ON THIS SUBJECT NEXT YEAR. HIS RESPONSE  
TO THAT WAS ONE OF ENTHUSIASM, AND HE SAID HE HOPED IT  
WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION.

1. THAT'S ABOUT ALL. I THINK MY HAVING CALLED ON HIM  
WAS A WISE MOVE. I THINK HE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO SEND THE DEPT A MESSAGE THAT HE WANTED BETTER RELA-  
TIONS, AND HE STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED ANY CONTROVERSIAL  
SUBJECT. WHEN I NEXT MEET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER  
MOST, I PLAN IF NECESSARY TO REFER TO AMIN'S DESIRE FOR

CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 07218 02 OF 02 271331Z  
BETTER RELATIONS AS AN ARGUMENT FOR THE MFA TO EASE UP  
ON US ON THE MISSION STAFFING ISSUE.  
10. BEARING IN MIND THE DEPARTMENT'S STRICTURE THAT I  
KEEP THE MEETING SHORT, I LOOKED AT MY WATCH WHEN I  
LEFT AND, COUNTING T B FOUR MINUTES WHEN THE PHOTO-  
GRAPHERS WERE THERE, I WAS IN AMIN'S RECEPTION ROOM FOR  
19 MINUTES. THE TIMING ALL AROUND WAS, I THOUGHT, JUST  
ABOUT RIGHT.

AMSTUTZ  
CONFIDENTIAL

03:15:07:1034